

Appendix A

1. (Amended) A valve comprising:
a valve body;
a sealing ring⁶⁵ having a rounded stem-receiving portion adapted to
engage³⁷ a valve stem; and
a valve stem having a dispensing passage⁶² adapted to be receivable by
the sealing ring and adapted to slidingly engage the sealing ring.

2. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the area of
contact between the rounded stem-receiving portion of the sealing ring and
the valve stem is less than 90% of the area of contact for a non-rounded
sealing ring.

3. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the sealing ring
is made by a moulding process.

4. (Amended) A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding
process is injection moulding.

5. (Amended) A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding
process is compression moulding.

6. (Amended) A valve according to claim 3 wherein the moulding
process is transfer moulding.

7. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the sealing ring
is adapted to be fixedly stationary relative to the valve body.

8. (Amended) The valve according to claim 7, wherein the sealing ring
is adapted to be fixedly stationary within a cavity in the valve body.

9. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving portion of the sealing ring includes at least one rounded edge.

10. (Amended) The valve according to any of claim 1, wherein the rounded stem-receiving portion of the sealing ring includes a lobed surface.

11. (Amended) The valve according to claim 10, wherein the lobed surface includes one or more wells.

12. (Amended) The valve according to claim 11, wherein the one or more wells includes a lubricant material therein.

13. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the valve body includes a metering chamber, a sampling chamber, and further including a second sealing ring adapted to slidably engage the stem, and,

wherein the valve stem includes a transfer passage such that in the valve-closed position the dispensing passage is isolated from the metering chamber and the metering chamber is in communication with the sampling chamber via said transfer passage,

wherein, in the valve-open position, the dispensing passage is in communication with the metering chamber and the transfer passage is isolated from the metering chamber, and,

wherein the second sealing ring includes a second rounded stem-receiving portion adapted to engage the stem.

14. (Amended) The valve according to claim 13, wherein the area of contact between the second rounded stem-receiving portion and the valve stem is less than 90% of the area of contact between a non-rounded sealing ring and the stem.

²²~~15~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the second sealing ring is made by a moulding process.

²³~~16~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²²~~15~~ wherein the moulding process is injection moulding.

²⁴~~17~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²²~~15~~ wherein the moulding process is compression moulding.

²⁵~~18~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²²~~15~~ wherein the moulding process is transfer moulding.

¹³~~19~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim 10, wherein the second sealing ring is adapted to be fixedly stationary relative to the valve body.

¹⁴~~20~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ¹³~~19~~, wherein the second sealing ring is adapted to be fixedly stationary within a cavity in the valve body.

¹⁷~~21~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ¹⁴~~19~~, wherein the second stem-receiving portion includes at least one rounded edge.

²⁴~~22~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²²~~16~~, wherein the second stem-receiving portion includes a lobed surface.

²⁷~~23~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²⁴~~22~~, wherein the lobed surface includes one or more wells.

²⁸~~24~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim ²⁷~~23~~, wherein the one or more wells include a lubricant material.

²⁹~~25~~. (Amended) The valve according to claim 1, wherein the sealing

ring comprises an elastomeric material.

¹⁸
~~26.~~ (Amended) The valve according to claim ~~13~~¹⁵, wherein the second sealing ring comprises a second elastomeric material.

¹¹²
~~27.~~ (Amended) The valve according to claim 26 wherein the first and/or second elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic elastomer comprising a copolymer of about 80 to about 95 mole percent ethylene and a total of about 5 to about 20 mole percent of one or more of 1-butene, 1-hexene and 1-octene; a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer; an ethylene propylene diene rubber; a thermoplastic elastomer blend of an ethylene propylene diene rubber dispersed in a polypropylene polyethylene matrix; a butyl polyethylene; a butyl-polypropylene; and any mixtures thereof.

²⁰
~~28.~~ (Amended) A valve according to claim ~~27~~¹⁹, wherein the first sealing ring additionally comprises a lubricant material.

²¹
~~29.~~ (Amended) A valve according to claim ~~13~~¹⁵, wherein the second sealing ring additionally comprises a second lubricant material.

³¹
~~30.~~ (Amended) A valve according to claim 1, wherein the stem comprises a third lubricant material.